

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Swap Shop Subcommittee
Minutes of Special Meeting
July 24, 2020

Meeting held at transfer station.

Present: Pene Williams, Susan Spak, Anne Bennett (guest), Judy Racine (guest), Scott Sheldon (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am by Acting Chairperson Williams.

Walton reported that she was informed that the swap shop, like the Senior Center, will be one of the last places to reopen since it is seniors that frequent the swap shop and a non-essential town function. Sheldon stated that the transfer station has been extremely busy during the pandemic and he and co-worker Frank Sandberg do not have time to take the extra steps needed to keep the swap shop functioning safely for volunteers. All agreed that there needs to be better publicity of alternative outlets for used items. There was discussion of best ways to inform residents without any new suggestions.

Swap shop volunteers Bennett and Racine asked for an outline of responsibilities of volunteers and guests that can be posted in the swap shop area. There is also a flyer about the swap shop. Items that cannot be taken, such as bike helmets and car seats, should be incorporated into the swap shop flyer. Walton stated that she has both and will e-mail them with the minutes. Both documents need to be updated.

The volunteers that help at the swap shop are Bennett, Racine, Nora Stevens, Denise Halle and Leo Durocher. Some of the swap shop donations are taken by the No-Freeze shelter, WAIM, Covenant Soup Kitchen, Holy Family Shelter and Discovery Depot.

For the new building, two possible locations were discussed – one beyond the swap shop area at the edge of the old landfill and the other in the wooded area by the shredded paper container. Sheldon stated that he measured the current space to include the storage area behind the swap shop and it is 30 feet by 22 feet. The proposed new building should be at least 36 feet by 24 feet. Building size will depend on budget and space constraints. The volunteers asked to be included in the new building process to help create a place that functions well.

New space wish list–

A door that closes to keep out wind and weather

Receiving table at the door

An area behind the receiving table for bins to place recyclables, bulky waste, items for local charities

An “office” space for volunteers

An area to accept some furniture

Lean-to area outside for garden tools and equipment

Heated/cooled space

Windows around the building

Built in shelves – the ability to use all the vertical space

Bulletin board for individual trading flyers

Handicap parking spaces

Rules/responsibilities posted prominently

Alternative outlets for items posted prominently

There was discussion about expanding the swap shop to include a space for items that need repair and/or having a space for a periodic Repair Cafe. The volunteers expressed concern about expanding the swap shop to include non-functioning items and didn't think the space would lend itself to a repair clinic.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton